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Application No.: 10/038,545

Docket No.: H1139.0107

**LISTING OF THE CLAIMS**

1. (Previously Presented) An optical subscriber system comprising: station equipment; a plurality of subscriber units; a transmission line for transmitting trailing signals from the station equipment to the plurality of subscriber units and transmitting leading signals from the plurality of subscriber units to the station equipment; and a star coupler for branching trailing signals and combining the leading signals, the station equipment comprising a transmission line distance monitor/processor unit which sends a distance measuring control signal to each of the subscriber units, measures, based on a distance measuring signal returned from each of the subscriber units, the transmission line distance between the station equipment and each of the subscriber units, and judges whether the transmission line distance is larger or smaller than a predetermined reference value.

2. (Original) The optical subscriber system according to claim 1, wherein the station equipment further comprises a trailing signal multiplexer and a leading signal separator and functions to multiplex the distance measuring control signal, generated in the transmission line distance monitor/processor unit, in the trailing signal multiplexer to prepare a trailing signal, which is then sent to each of the subscriber units, and to separate, from a leading signal returned from each of the subscriber units, a distance measuring signal, in the leading signal separator, which is then sent to the transmission line distance monitor/processor unit.

3. (Previously Presented) The optical subscriber system according to claim 2, wherein the transmission line distance monitor/processor unit comprises a distance measuring control signal generator, a distance measuring section, and a distance judgment section, and

the distance measuring control signal generated in the distance measuring control signal generator is multiplexed in the trailing signal multiplexer to prepare a trailing signal, which is then sent to each of the subscriber units, and a distance